

Applic. No. 10/626,954

Amdt. dated April 30, 2005

Reply to Office action of February 8, 2005

Remarks/Arguments:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-9 remain in the application. Claims 1, 7, and 9 have been amended.

In item 2 on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, claims 1-9 have been rejected as being indefinite under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

More specifically, the Examiner alleges that claim 1 fails to define the "supporting elements" as being part of the "auxiliary pile carrier". Claims 1 and 9 have been amended so as to further clarify the claims regarding this point. Therefore, the rejection is believed to have been overcome.

The Examiner alleges that claim 1 does not clearly establish the structural arrangement of the "supporting elements" to form a pile carrier. Claims 1 and 9 have been amended so as to further clarify the claims regarding this point and to facilitate prosecution of the application. Therefore the rejection is believed to have been overcome.

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The Examiner alleges the "insertion direction" has not been clearly established in the claims. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner. Claims 1 and 9 recite that the "auxiliary pile carrier is to be displaced in an insertion direction from a standby position into an operational position." Accordingly, the insertion direction is believed to be clearly defined. Therefore, claims 1 and 9 have not been amended to overcome the rejection.

The Examiner alleges that in claims 2 and 3 the language "said guide holding said extension" lacks antecedent basis. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner. The Examiner is directed to the last paragraph of claim 1 where "said extensions" are introduced. Accordingly, antecedent basis is provided for "said guide holding said extension" in the last paragraph of claim 1. Therefore, claims 2 and 3 have not been amended to overcome the rejection.

The Examiner stated that in claim 7 it is not understood how the "auxiliary pile supporting table" relates to the "auxiliary pile carrier" of claim 1. Claim 7 has been amended so as to further clarify the claim. Therefore, the rejection of claim 7 is believed to have been overcome.

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It is accordingly believed that the claims meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs. Should the Examiner find any further objectionable items, counsel would appreciate a telephone call during which the matter may be resolved. The above-noted changes to the claims are provided solely for cosmetic or clarificatory reasons. The changes are not provided for overcoming the prior art nor for any reason related to the statutory requirements for a patent.

It is appreciatively noted from item 3 on page 3 of the Office action that claims 1-9 appear that they would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, set for in the Office action. Claims 1, 7, and 9 have been amended as indicated above and are believed to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112. Accordingly, claims 1-9 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

In item 4 on page 3 of the Office action, the drawings have been objected to under 37 CFR 1.121(d).

The Examiner stated that the lifting/lowering device of claim 6 must be shown or cancelled from the claims. The Examiner is respectfully directed to lines 17-24 on page 14 of the specification, where it is disclosed that the guide 23 and

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guide track 22 are liftable by a lifting device which includes a lifting/lowering chain 24 and guide profiles 25.

Accordingly the "lifting/lowering unit" is believed to be shown in the drawings. Therefore, the drawings have not been amended to overcome the objection to the drawings by the Examiner.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel respectfully requests a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

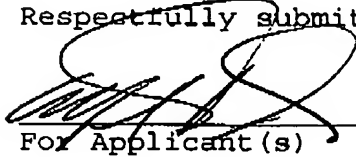
If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Since it is believed that only allowable claims remain, the early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is solicited herewith.

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Please charge any other fees which might be due with respect
to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner &
Greenberg P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,


For Applicant(s)

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April 30, 2005

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